

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049651
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PRS-01 L-03 SCA-01 SY-05 USIA-06
FBIE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02
H-01 PA-01 /061 R

DRAFTED BY EUR;SOV:MDGRIMES:REH
APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE
EUR:SOV:MGARRISON
S/CPR:RGOOKIN (SUBSTANCE)
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
FBI, S/PRS, L, SCA, A/SY, USIA/IEU
-----052022 045354 /40
P R 051951Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, UR, US (GAN, VITALIY VLADIMIROVICH)

SUBJECT: ARREST OF SOVIET CORRESPONDENT

REF: A. STATE 47495, B. STATE 43580

1. IN MEETING WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE
MARCH 4, SOVIET MINISTER-COUNSELOR V.M. VASEV PRESENTED
PAPER PROTESTING MANNER IN WHICH LOCAL VIRGINIA POLICE
HANDLED ARREST OF TASS CORRESPONDENT VITALIY GAN. VASEV
STATED POLICE, KNOWING GAN WAS SOVIET CITIZEN, ACTED IN
WAY TO DELIBERATELY DEGRADE THE HUMAN DIGNITY OF A SOVIET
CITIZEN. HE INDICATED THAT POLICE, AT THEIR OWN VOLITION,
SAID THEY WERE QUOTE ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS UNQUOTE AND
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SUBJECTED GAN TO POLICE BRUTALITY BY HAVING HIM UNDERGO
MULTIPLE BODY SEARCHES (HE WAS STRIPPED NAKED), AND BY
BEING HANDCUFFED AND PUT IN JAIL. VASEV CITED THIS KIND
OF TREATMENT WENT AGAINST HELSINKI AGREEMENT AND SOVIET
EMBASSY REQUESTED THAT PERPETRATORS OF THIS ACTION APOLOGIZE
TO GAN.

2. ARMITAGE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT INCIDENT OCCURRED. HE TOOK ISSUE WITH ALLEGATION THAT POLICE WERE ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS POINTING OUT THIS WAS LOCAL POLICE MATTER AND DEPARTMENT ONLY LEARNED OF IT THROUGH SOVIET EMBASSY. ONCE

WE WERE AWARE OF PROBLEM, WE ACTED QUICKLY TO ASSIST IN LOCATING GAN AND TRIED TO BE HELPFUL. ARMITAGE INDICATED THAT THE ARREST, AND SEARCH AND HANDCUFFING OF PEOPLE CONVICTED OF SPEEDING VIOLATIONS IS STANDARD PRACTICE IN VIRGINIA FOR ALL VIOLATORS AND IS NO DIFFERENT FROM PROCEDURE INFLICTED ON AMERICAN CITIZENS. ARMITAGE SAID THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEM IF GAN HAD RESPONDED TO SUMMONS.

3. VASEV REPLIED SOVIET EMBASSY HAD SENT SUMMONS TO OFFICE OF PROTOCOL WHICH RETURNED IT ONLY DAY BEFORE ARREST SAYING HE HAD NO DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770388/aaaaczvc.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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